

Sustainability Committee

Minutes of Meeting

July 9, 2014

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Shawn Santasiere, Susannah Everett, Paul Shapiro, Lon Hultgren (guest), Don Hoyle (guest), Joyce Rawitscher (guest), George Rawitscher (guest), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Stoddard.

Approval of the June 25, 2014 minutes was deferred until there is a meeting quorum.

Lon Hultgren, chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), talked about steps Mansfield could take to become a bike friendly community. The League of American Bicyclists recommends six actions.

1. Establish a bike advisory group that works with the Town. Hultgren is developing a list of interested people. Santasiere added his name to the list. Members were encouraged to steer other avid bikers to Hultgren.
2. Develop a complete streets policy. Stoddard will check to see if this is one of the strategies and is given prominence in the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan.
3. Expand bike lanes within the Town. The committee discussed next steps to create a bike lane along Route 195, beginning at Route 44 heading south. Stoddard contacted the DOT bike/pedestrian coordinator who stated that a complete re-pavement of the road offers a good opportunity to make a bike lane. Does the water line project involve re-paving the entire road or just patching a trench? Connecticut Water Company (CWC) is responsible for the road design. Hultgren will find out where CWC is in the design phase. Will they include a bike lane? If Route 195 is being re-paved and CWC includes a bike lane in its design, then a source of funding needs to be found. The Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), which the Town is now a member, may help in locating funding sources for a lane. Stoddard will contact CRCOG. UConn residential life may be a funding source, since they paid for the bike lane along North Eagleville Road. Santasiere offered to contact UConn. Hultgren suggested contacting Scott Gallo in residential life at [s.gallo@uconn.edu](mailto:s.gallo@uconn.edu) and Paul Ferri in the Office of Environmental Policy at [paul.ferri@uconn.edu](mailto:paul.ferri@uconn.edu). Walton will check with Carrington as to how he wants the sustainability committee to interface with the project.
4. Develop a bike master plan. The Planning and Zoning Commission has started this process through their infrastructure meetings, but it should also be included as a strategy in the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan. Stoddard will inquire.
5. Increase bike skills education by offering seminars and classes. This could potentially be offered through Storrs Center Cycle. EO Smith has offered bike skills/safety training in preparation for Bike to Work Week (generally the third week in May).
6. Involve the police with enforcement of bike safety.

Hultgren also mentioned that there are now 15 bike commuter spaces at the transportation center ready for use.

Walton reported that September 15-21, 2014 is national drive electric week. The chair person for the non-profit group Drive Electric Cars Connecticut, Mark Renburke, contacted Walton to ask if the Town would be willing to help arrange an event at the new Price Chopper on Saturday, September 20, 2014 since Mansfield has seven electric vehicle charging stations and is the only community with them in eastern Connecticut. Members thought it was a good idea to highlight the charging stations in town. Hoyle offered his help and car for the event. On the following day at the Celebrate Mansfield Festival, September 21, 2014, the sustainability committee would like to have a table display on mobility that features car sharing, bike sharing, bike commuter facilities and electric charging stations. Walton will reserve a space for the Festival and contact the Transportation Advisory Committee to see if they are interested in working together on a table display.

Joyce and George Rawitscher spoke to the committee about the urgent need for climate change education. The committee will support the Rawitschers' efforts to put together a program for residents.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton